Archaeological Survey

Alamo Ridge
+/- 24 acres, Fairgrounds Parkway
San Antonio, Texas

March 19, 2008

FGS Control # FGS-08136

Prepared exclusively for

Eastgroup Properties, L.P.
4220 World Houston Pkwy, Suite 170
Houston, Texas 77032

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Eastgroup Properties, L.P.
4220 World Houston Pkwy, Suite 170
Houston, Texas 77032

Attn: Mr. Brent Wood

Re: Archaeological Survey
Alamo Ridge
+/- 24 acres, Fairgrounds Parkway
San Antonio, Texas

Frost GeoSciences, Inc. Control # FGS-08136

Dear Mr. Wood:

Frost GeoSciences, Inc. in conjunction with Abasolo Archaeological Consultants have completed the Archaeological Survey at the above referenced project site. The results of our investigations have been combined and are provided in the following report.

If you have any questions regarding this report, or if Frost GeoSciences, Inc. may be of additional assistance to you on this project, please feel free to call our office. It has been a pleasure to work with you and we wish to thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you on this project. We look forward to being of continued service.

Sincerely,
Frost GeoSciences, Inc.

B. Culver

Brian Culver
Senior Project Manager

Steve Frost

Steve Frost C.P.G.
President

Restricted Cultural Information

According to the Texas Administrative Code: TITLE 13: CULTURAL RESOURCES, PART 2, TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, CHAPTER 24, RESTRICTED CULTURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION, RULE §24.3 Scope: "The intent of these rules is to restrict access to specific cultural resource data to those individuals that have a legitimate scientific or legal interest in obtaining and using that information. The intent is not to limit the public's use of all information that the commission has within its libraries, files, documents, and the THSA database; however, as provided for in §442.007(f) of the Texas Government Code, and §191.004(a-c) of the Texas Natural Resources Code, the commission can determine what cultural resource information is sensitive and what information needs to be restricted due to potential dangers to those resources. The cultural resources that the commission considers to be at risk include Archaeological sites, shipwrecks, certain historic structures and engineering features. Public disclosure of any information relating to the location or character of these resources would increase their risk of harm, theft or destruction. Therefore, this information is defined as restricted and is not subject to public disclosure under state law. Restrictions on who can obtain data and how the data are used is within the legal authority of the commission, and can be defined through the rule-making authority of the commission."

As a result, it must be noted that the information contained within this report cannot be made available to the general public and additional copies of this report and the attached maps are not permissible without the written consent of Frost GeoSciences, Inc. and Abasolo Archaeological Consultants.

Abstract

Frost GeoSciences, Inc., in conjunction with Abasolo Archaeological Consultants, conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 24 acres comprising the proposed development at the Alamo Ridge Business Park, a project of Bury & Partners - San Antonio, Inc. The property is situated along Fairgrounds Parkway, south-southwest of Holmes High School in north San Antonio, Texas. The assessment was carried out with the purpose of assessing the significance of any cultural resources that may have been discovered on the property. Fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian survey of the entire property which identified a variety of recent artifacts, related to the previous use of the property as part of the Alamo Downs racetrack operation. Items such as concrete water well casings, water troughs, and broken up concrete were identified. After the abandonment of the race track operation and subsequent reuse of the land disturbances to the Site surface, such as the construction of a drainage berm and leveling by the introduction of fill, have taken place. Severe erosion of the creek floodplain has also contributed to disturbance of the Site surface. The only trace of prehistoric landscape use identified during the field work was evidence of limited quarrying of chert. This evidence was discovered in the form of primary flakes and tested cobbles along the bluff slope bordering the property on the southeast corner. Because no historic or prehistoric sites are to be impacted by the development of the Alamo Ridge Business Park property, no further archaeological work is recommended.

Geologic Map Review

The Site is located on the Pecan Gap Chalk and fluviatile terrace deposits. The Pecan Gap Chalk is a light yellow to yellowish brown chalk and chalky marl. The Pecan Gap Chalk weathers to form moderately deep soils. Fossils of Exogyra Ponderosa are common. Overall thickness ranges from 100 to 400 feet. Fluviatile terrace deposits consists of gravel, sand, silt, and clay. The gravel is predominantly limestone, dolostone, and chert. These low terrace deposits are mostly above the flood level along entrenched streams. The fluviatile morphology is well preserved with point bars, oxbows, and abandoned channel segments.

A copy of the Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet (revised 1982) indicating the location of the Site and the geologic formations is included in this report in Figure 1.

U.S.D.A. Soil Survey Review

The United States Department of Agricultural (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) maintains an online Web Soil Survey for Bexar County, Texas. According to the Web Soil Survey the Site is located on the Austin silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (AuB) and the Houston-Sumpter clay, 5 to 10 percent slopes, severely eroded.

The Austin Silty Clay (AuB) consists of clayey soils that are moderately deep, moderately dark colored, and very strongly calcareous. They developed under grass, in material weathered from chalk or chalky marl. The surface layer is dark grayish-brown silty clay. It is about 28 inches thick. The subsurface layer is about 18 inches thick. This layer is pale-brown silty clay and is somewhat more clayey than the surface layer. It has moderate, medium and fine, subangular blocky structure and is very hard when dry and firm but crumbly when moist. The underlying material is chalky marl that contains much lime and many shale fragments and is firm but crumbly when moist. Roots easily penetrate this layer. These soils are well drained and their capacity to hold water is good. Internal drainage is medium. Permeability is moderate. The large amount of free lime tends to make some plant nutrients unavailable and increases susceptibility to water erosion.

The Houston Sumter Clay (HoD3) consists of upland soils that are very shallow, moderately dark colored, and gently sloping to strongly sloping. The surface layer is grayish brown to light olive brown, calcareous, clayey, and about 25 inches thick. Wide cracks form when it dries. The structure is weak, very fine, blocky, and extremely firm but crumble when moist. The subsurface layer is grayish brown or light yellowish brown clay and is about 18 inches thick. Cracks form in this layer also, when the soil is dry. This layer has moderate, fine, blocky structure and is extremely firm but crumbly when moist. The underlying material consists of pale yellow to olive yellow calcareous clay that contains much lime, some altered shale fragments, and many gypsum crystals. Houston soils have slow to rapid surface drainage. Runoff is very rapid after the surface soil is saturated. Internal drainage is slow or very slow. The capacity to hold water is good. Erosion is a hazard.

A copy of the Aerial Photograph from the U.S.D.A. Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas indicating the location of the Site and the soil types is included in this report on Plate 4 in Appendix A.

Introduction

Frost GeoSciences, Inc., in conjunction with Abasolo Archaeological Consultants, conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 24 acres comprising the proposed development at the Alamo Ridge Business Park, a project of Bury & Partners - San Antonio, Inc. The property is situated along Fairgrounds Parkway, south-southwest of Holmes High School in north San Antonio, Texas (Plate 5). The survey was requested by the Historic Preservation Office of the City of San Antonio. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the "Archeological Survey Standards for Texas" in order to assess the significance of any cultural resources that might be discovered with regard to eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Fieldwork consisted of a pedestrian survey of the entire property.

Field work was performed on March 5, 2008 by Dr. Tomas Hester, Ph.D and Dr. Harry Shafer, Ph.D, with Brian Culver of Frost GeoSciences assisting. Survey conditions were moderate to good and ground visibility was adequate for the detection of any cultural resources that may have been present.

Setting

The proposed Alamo Ridge Business Park development is located inside Loop 410, south of Oliver Wendell Holmes High School. The project area is within the Huebner Creek drainage and has an intermittent tributary trending northeast-southwest through a portion of the Site. In the broad geologic sense, the area lies within the Willis Point formation (Twp; Arnow 1959) (Figure 1). Two major soil types are present, the Austin silty clay (AuB), found on flat areas along Fairgrounds Parkway, and Houston-Sumpter clay, 5 to 10 percent slopes, severely eroded (HoD3), found on the northeast to southwest edge of the property (Taylor et al. 1991) (Plate 4). These clays contain some Uvalde gravel chert cobbles ("flint"), and much of this material may have been derived from gravel exposures in the Tarrant association on the high ridges overlooking the project area.

Archaeological Background

Local Chronology

The broad outline of the archaeology of northern Bexar County is reviewed below. Major time periods and site types are briefly noted. These periods are reflective of those published for the south Texas area by Hester (2004).

The Paleoindian period, roughly 9,200 to 6,800 B.C., has distinctive chipped stone spear points that were used in hunting mammoth and other late Ice Age mammals. Other spear types appear with a shift to hunting bison, deer and other game animals after the Pleistocene ended around 8,000 B.C. Known site types in northern Bexar County are campsites with flint-chipping debris from stone-tool making and repair. The Pavo Real site, of Clovis age (9,200 B.C.) was excavated near FM 1604 and Leon Creek (Collins et al. 2003). A later site, dating to around 7,500 B.C., was investigated on the grounds of St. Mary's Hall on Salado Creek (Bousman et al. 2004). Most recently, the authors have observed the excavations of the Southern Texas Archaeological Association at the Chandler site on Culebra Creek, yielding artifacts between 7,500 and 6,800 B.C.

Sites of the following Archaic period are common in northern Bexar County. These peoples were hunters and gatherers as in the earlier Paleoindian period, but lived in an environment very similar to those of modern times. Projectile points used to tip spears (often erroneously called "arrowheads") change in shape through time, from 6,800 B.C. to 500 A.D. Archaeologists use these forms to recognize more specific time frames within the Archaic (e.g., Early, Middle and Late Archaic). In northern Bexar County, the most distinctive Archaic site is the burned rock midden. These large accumulations of fire-cracked limestone result from the use of earth-oven cooking starting around 3,000 B.C. (Black et al. 1997). Such features were usually part of campsites, with large amounts of flint debris from tool-making; sometimes animal bone (dietary remains) and charcoal, that can be used for radiocarbon dating. Other Archaic site types include lithic procurement areas (where flint cobbles eroded out of the Edwards limestone and were processed), lithic scatters (lightly-used areas probably representing short-term hunting and gathering activities), and rarely, sinkhole burials (Archaic peoples often disposed of their dead by placing them in sinkholes and caverns).

By 700 A.D., there began to be some changes in the long standing hunter-gatherer lifeway. The Late Prehistoric is first seen with the introduction of the bow and arrow. The stone arrow points are very small (mistakenly called "bird points"), but could be used in hunting game of any size. By 1,300 A.D., the economy emphasized buffalo-hunting. Most sites of this era include campsites, often in areas previously used by Archaic peoples; lithic scatters; and the lithic procurement areas of earlier times continued to be used.

During the Historic period, the best known archaeological remains are of ranch and farm houses constructed from cut stone, dating from the 1840s through the 1880s. An example is the Huebner-Onion Homestead, a 2-story stone structure built in 1862 in what is now Leon Valley. Stacked- stone fences also occur. Such sites, including those without surviving structures, are recognized from 19th century pottery fragments, artifacts of glass and metal, etc. Later Historic houses and farmsteads, through the early 1900s, are also found.

Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity

Few archaeological sites are known in the general area of thr proposed Alamo Ridge development. Indeed, the closest recorded site is about 1,500 meters to the west-southwest. And, those sites that have been recorded provide very little information of value on archaeology of the immediate locale. For example, the closest sites are 41BX555 and 556, recorded by the Texas Highway Department archaeologists in 1981; both had been disturbed by earlier work on Loop 410; BX556 appears to date from the Archaic period (TASA).

On Culebra Creek, the Cathedral Rock Nature Park has been surveyed. Six sites were documented (TASA). With reference to the site terminology used previously, one is a lithic scatter of unknown age (BX1595), another is a secondary deposit with mixed cultural materials and part of a mammoth tusk (BX1597), a third is an "open campsite" that is very heavily eroded. The final three sites (BX 1592, 1593, 1594) are all described as "open campsites," marked by scattered burned rock and flakes. No diagnostic artifacts were found. Indeed, none of the six sites at this locale can be dated.

To the south-southwest, in the vicinity of Southwest Research Institute, a survey on Leon Creek, related to a Regional Stormwater Facility, recorded three sites. One (41BX1535) is an "open campsite" that yielded flakes and other lithic debris, along with an arrow point of Late Prehistoric age (described by the recorder as "Cuney-like;" cf. Turner and Hester 1993). At this same site, the archaeologists documented concrete pads and other building debris which they believe is related to a mid-20th century riding club. Both of the other sites (BX1535, 1536) are lithic scatters of unknown age.

Archaeological surveys along Leon Creek, down stream at and near Lackland Airforce Base, conducted in the 1990s recorded several prehistoric sites (41BX1108, 1107, 1065, and 1066); of these all were described as prehistoric campsites except for 41BX1107 which is described as a quarry site where chert was procured for stone tools.

Survey Results

The survey party found the ground surface at the Site to have been heavily disturbed due to a number of factors. The remnants of concrete features associated with the Alamo Downs racetrack operations (Figure 2-C), leveling of the southwestern portion of the property with introduced fill, construction of a protective berm along Fairgrounds Parkway to divert storm water runoff (Figure 3) and severe erosion through the middle of the property. All directly impacted the integrity of the archaeological landscape. Aside from the concrete features, a single racehorse shoe was found on the surface (Figure 4-A). The only evidence of prehistoric use of the area consisted of flakes and cores resultant from the expedient quarrying of chert along the low bluff bordering the property at the southeast corner (Figure 4-B). Primary flaking debris such as initial cortex flakes (Figure 4-C) and tested cobbles constitute signs of prehistoric usage. This lithic material was confined to the eroded surface and does not merit a formal site designation.

Summary and Recommendations

The Phase I Archaeological Survey of the proposed Alamo Ridge development identified a variety of recent artifacts related to previous uses of the property as part of the Alamo Downs racetrack operations, such as concrete water well casings, troughs, and broken up concrete. After the abandonment of the race track operation and subsequent reuse of the land, other surface disturbances have taken place, such as the construction of a stormwater diversion berm and leveling by the introduction of fill material. Severe erosion of the creek floodplain has also contributed to the surface disturbance. The only trace of prehistoric landscape use on the Site was evidence of the limited quarrying of chert in the form of primary flakes and tested cobbles along the bluff slope bordering the property on the southeast corner. Since no historic or prehistoric sites are to be impacted by the development of the Alamo Ridge property, no further archaeological work is recommended.

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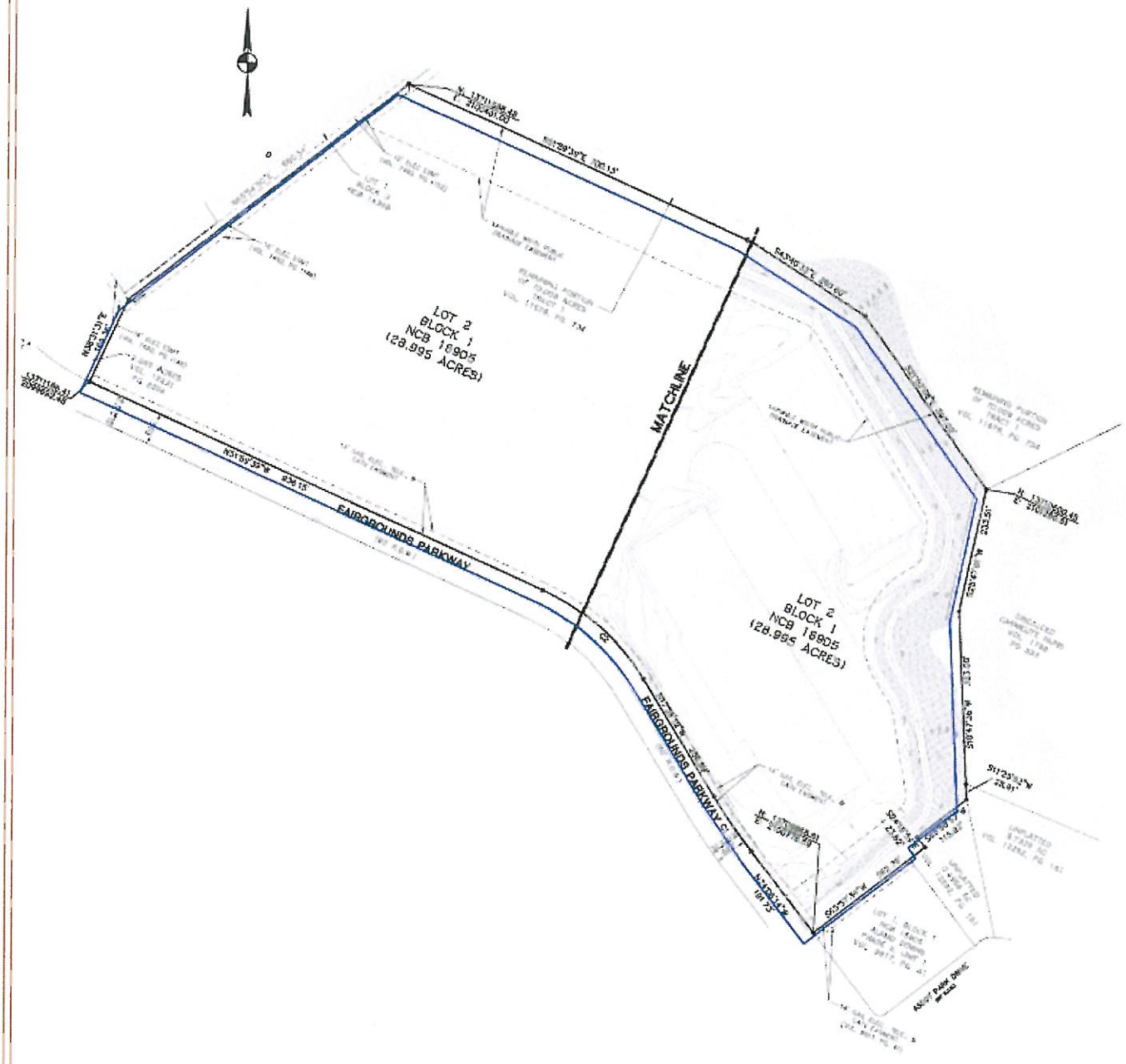
Frost GeoSciences



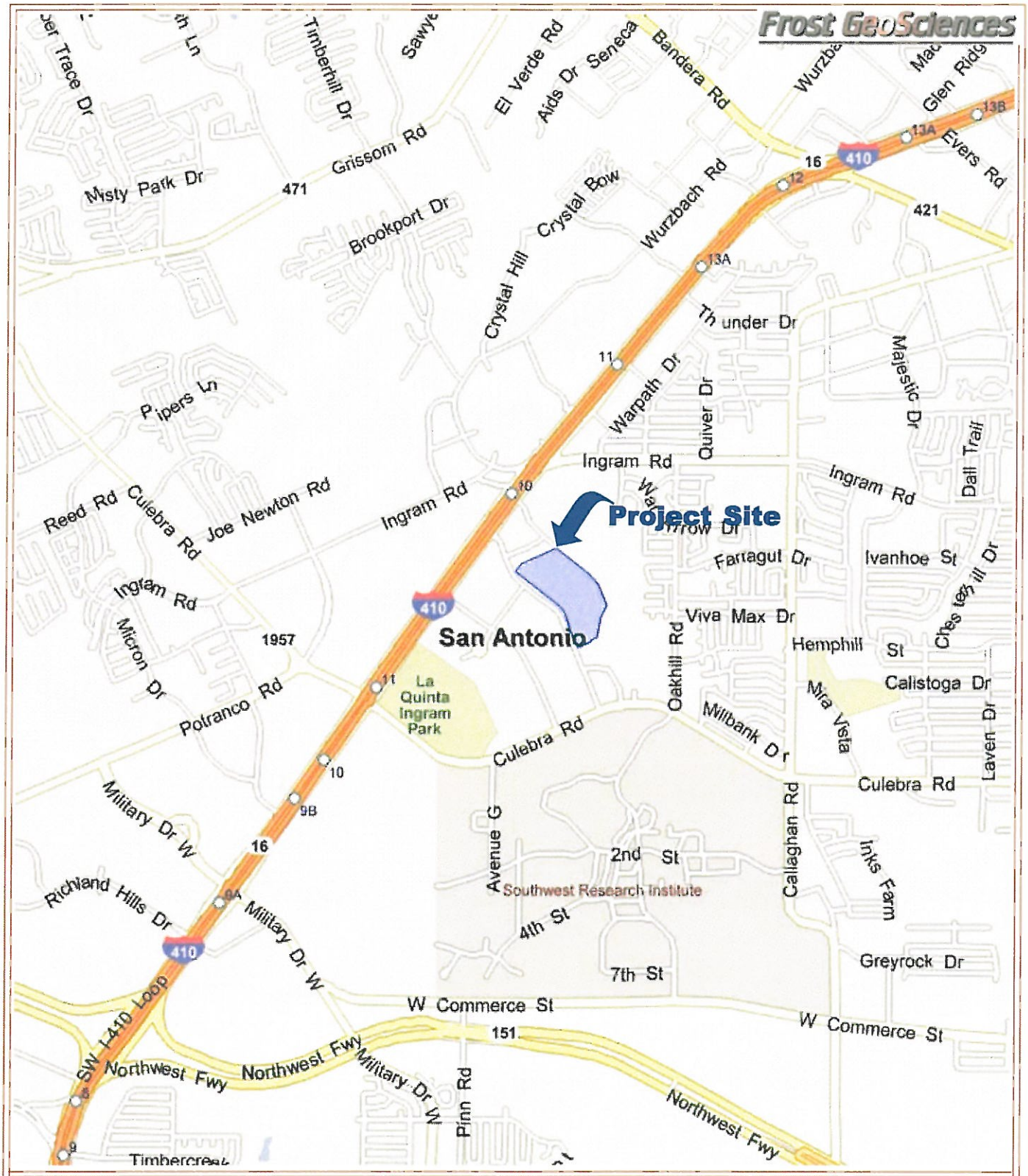
PROJECT NAME:

Archaeological Survey
Alamo Ridge
+/- 24 acres, Fairgrounds Parkway
San Antonio, Texas

Site Plan

PROJECT NO.: FGS-08136

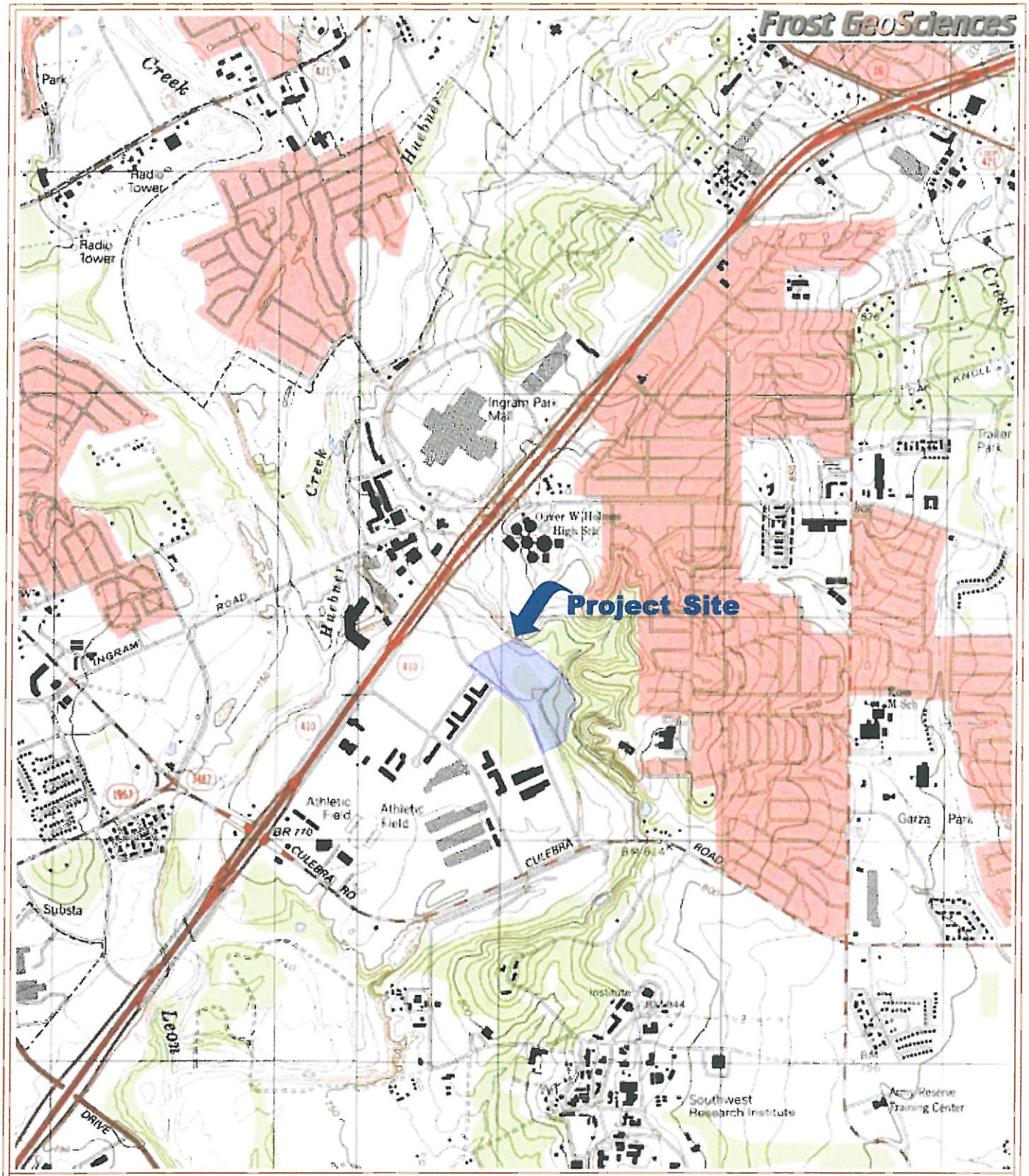
DATE: March 19, 2008



PROJECT NAME:	Street Map	
Archaeological Survey Alamo Ridge +/- 24 acres, Fairgrounds Parkway San Antonio, Texas	PROJECT NO.: FGS-08136	DATE: March 19, 2008

Geologic and Environmental Consulting

PLATE NO. 2



PROJECT NAME:

Archaeological Survey
Alamo Ridge
+/- 24 acres, Fairgrounds Parkway
San Antonio, Texas

U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map
San Antonio-West, Texas Sheet (1993)

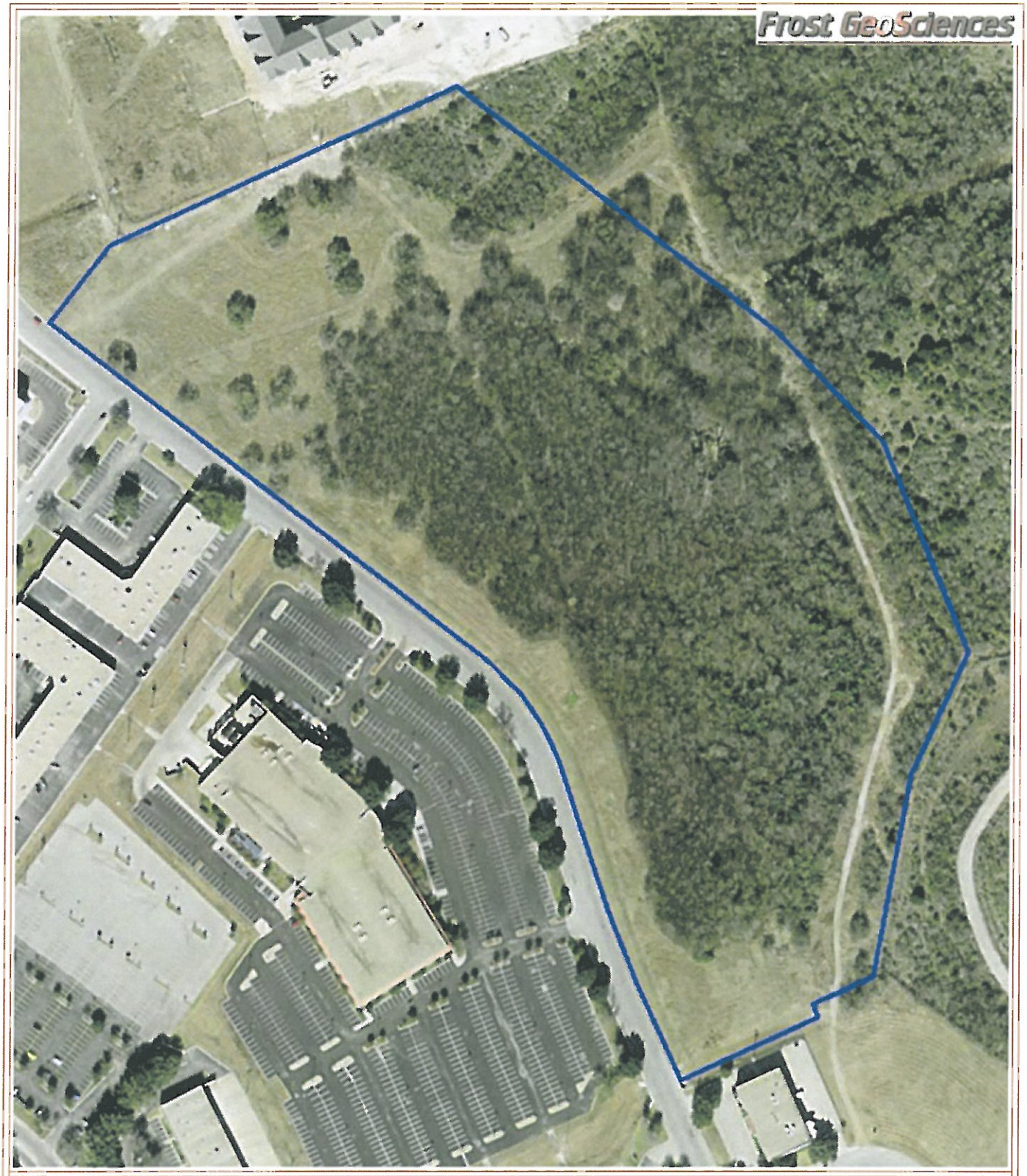
PROJECT NO.:	DATE:
FGS-08136	March 19, 2008

PROJECT NAME:	United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey Map - Bexar County, Texas	
Archaeological Survey Alamo Ridge +/- 24 acres, Fairgrounds Parkway San Antonio, Texas	PROJECT NO.: FGS-08136	DATE: March 19, 2008

Geologic and Environmental Consulting

PLATE NO. 4

Frost GeoSciences



PROJECT NAME:

Archaeological Survey
Alamo Ridge
+/- 24 acres, Fairgrounds Parkway
San Antonio, Texas

2008 Aerial Photograph
City of San Antonio

PROJECT NO.:	DATE:
FGS-08136	March 19, 2008

Geologic and Environmental Consulting

PLATE NO. 5

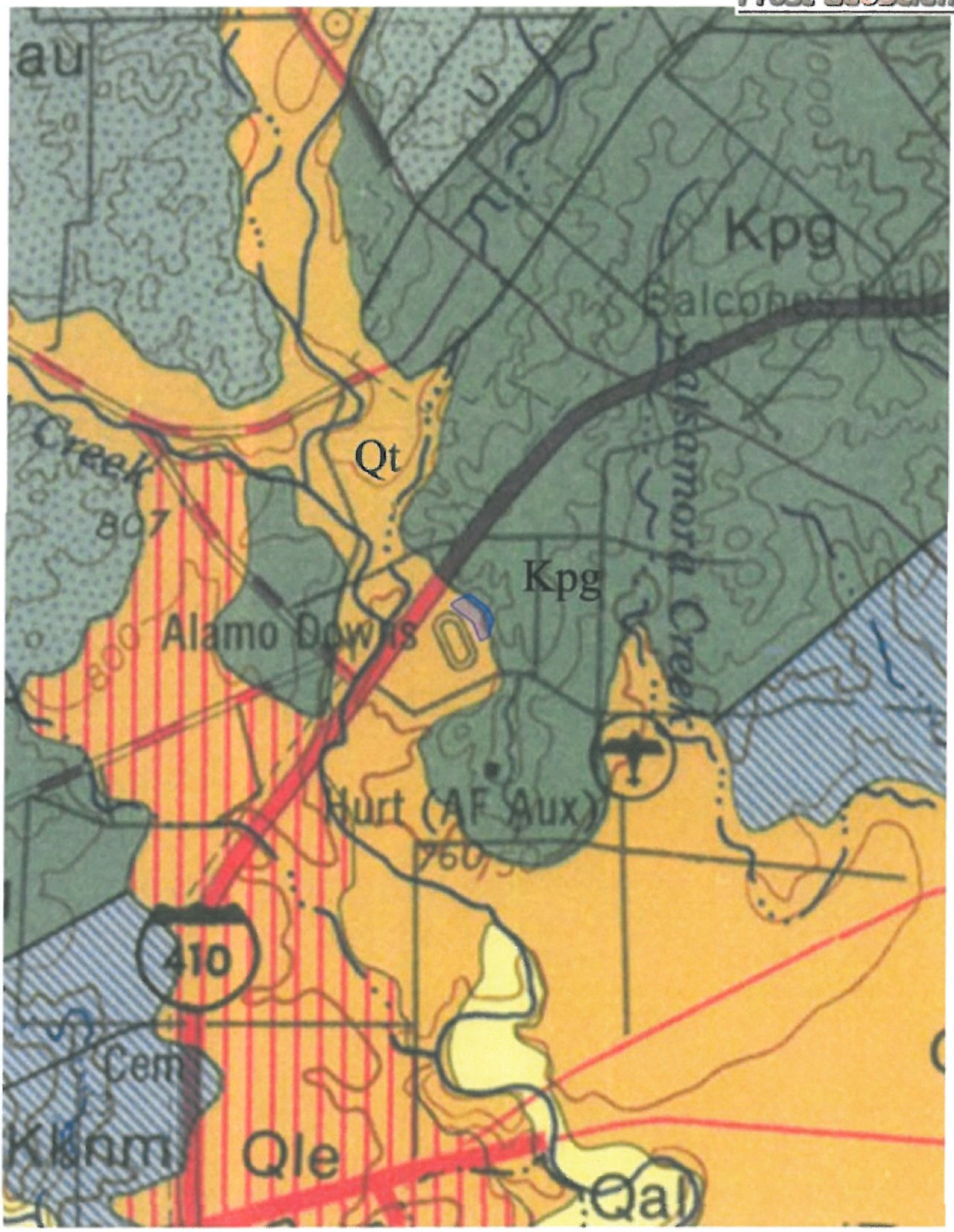


Figure 1. Bureau of Economic Geology - San Antonio Sheet
Geologic Map with project area highlighted

A

B

C

D

Figure 2. A, B, general views of the Alamo Ridge property, A looking north, B, looking south-southeast. C, view of concrete foundations removed by flooding; D, skateboard park and pipe ruins.

Figure 3. View of Site along Fairgrounds Parkway.
Photo shows stormwater diversion berm along the western boundary of the Site.

A

B

C

Figure 4. A, race horse shoe; B, prehistoric lithic quarry area; C, primary chert flakes observed at quarry area.